

OPEN LETTER TO YSA ON THE GAY LIBERATION ISSUE

In the past year and a half we have seen Gay Liberation grow from a few militant groups in California, Minnesota, and New York, to a movement which is now of international proportions. Gay Liberation groups can be found in every section and in all major cities of America, as well as in many other parts of the world. Those of us who had been active in the general political movement for many years, suppressing our gayness in the interests of what we thought were greater causes, have now spent much of our time building Gay Liberation. Sexism within as well as outside of the movement made us realize the necessity to build a strong, independent gay movement. This has been a difficult struggle for us in many ways. We are glad that at last it appears possible to have a free and open dialogue with YSA on the subject of homosexuality.

Marxists logically ought to support the Gay Liberation movement. The materialist, scientific approach should enable one to demystify the subject of homosexuality, to realize that the same forces perpetuating anti-gay attitudes also perpetuate other forms of reaction. Homosexual acts represent a natural and commonly occurring form of human behavior which has been branded as "perverted" mainly through the influence of the Judeo-Christian sexual code. Homoerophobic attitudes reflect a very narrow band of the human cultural spectrum -- one which, if we follow the analytic approach of Marx and Engels, goes along with a succession of societies where class domination is based upon property ownership. Lenin acted correctly when he struck the old Tsarist anti-homosexual laws off the books in 1917.

Setting aside YSA's past mistakes, we feel that it is now reasonable to expect certain things:

- 1) YSA should help build the Gay Liberation movement.
 - a. YSA should work for needed changes: repeal of anti-homosexual laws, a stop to institutional discrimination, etc.
 - b. YSA members should be encouraged to help build the Gay Liberation movement.
 - c. Gay Liberation should be included openly in the program of the YSA, including all publications and campaigns.
- 2) YSA should combat sexism within the organization.
 - a. Nobody should be excluded from the YSA on the basis of being gay.
 - b. YSA should protect members against any sexist discrimination within the organization.
 - c. An educational offensive should be conducted for the entire membership, using publications, forums, and all available means. The educational offensive should extend to all groups, including international groups, with which the YSA maintains fraternal relations.
- 3) YSA should defend members against any possible attack related to their being gay. This would include not only government oppression, but also attack from other political groups.

As always, we extend fraternal support to all liberation struggles and invite the participation of all in ours.

The Red Butterfly

P.S. For comrades who wish to become further enlightened on sexual behavior, we would recommend reading: Homosexual Behavior Among Males by Wainwright Churchill; Patterns Of Sexual Behavior by C.S. Ford and F.A. Beach; the two Kinsey studies; and the four Red Butterfly pamphlets.

The Red Butterfly is an association of gay men and women who as revolutionary socialists see their liberation linked to the class struggle.

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